

REMARKS

Applicants have provisionally elected, with traverse, Group I claims 1-30 and 56, which are drawn to membranes, for prosecution on the merits of the present application.

The basis of the applicants' traversal of the above provisional election of Group I claims 1-30 and 56 is that the Group II claims 31-48 are dependent claims that define a subclass of the Group I membranes having ion exchange moieties. The recitation in the Group II claims of additional ion exchange components and/or relationships among those components does not sever the close connection between the Group I membrane claims and the Group II ion exchange membrane claims, which are dependent upon the Group I membrane claims. Applicants submit that the Group II ion exchange membrane claims 31-48 can be readily searched together with the Group I membrane claims 1-30 and 56, and should be considered for examination along with the Group I membrane claims 1-30 and 56.

If the restriction requirement is modified in accordance with the remarks set forth above, then the applicants would elect, without traverse, the group of claims including membrane claims 1-30 and 56, as well as ion exchange membrane claims 31-48. Such an election would leave unelected claims 49-55, which are directed to membrane articles (presently designated as Group

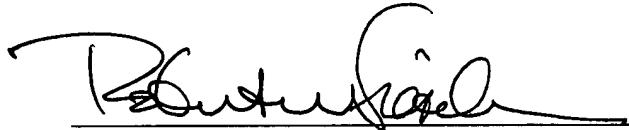
III), and claims 57-63, which are directed to a method of preparing membranes (presently designated as Group IV).

If the present restriction requirement is maintained, however, then applicants reserve the right to pursue unelected claims 31-55 and 57-63 in separate continuing application(s) filed during the pendency of the present application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 775-8123 if any unresolved matters remain concerning the present restriction requirement.

A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time accompanies this Response to Restriction Requirement. Please charge any additional fees incurred in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,



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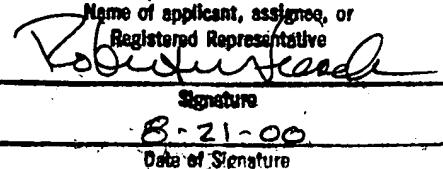
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Dated: August 21, 2000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 8-21-00
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ROBERT W. FIESELER

Name of applicant, assignee, or
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Signature

8-21-00

Date of Signature